Agenda Date: 3/16/06 Agenda Item: 4C-2



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

Board of Public Utilities
Two Gateway Center
Newark, NJ 07102
www.bpu.state.nj.us

<u>DIVISION OF</u> TELECOMMUNICATIONS

IN THE MATTER OF THE BOARD'S REVIEW OF THE CLASSIFICATION OF VERIZON NEW JERSEY'S DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE SERVICES ("DAS") AS COMPETITIVE AND ASSOCIATED SERVICE QUALITY ORDER EXTENDING STIPULATION DEADLINE

DOCKET NO. TX06010057

IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY VERIZON NEW JERSEY INC. FOR THE RECLASSIFICATION OF EXISTING RATE REGULATED SERVICES – DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE SERVICES AS COMPETITIVE SERVICES

DOCKET NO. TT97120889

SERVICE LIST ATTACHED

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BY THE BOARD:

This matter has been opened to the Board as a follow-up to the Board's January 23, 2004 Order adopting a stipulation regarding the provision of Directory Assistance Services ("DAS") by Verizon New Jersey, Inc. ("VNJ"). I/M/O the filing of Bell Atlantic-New Jersey, Inc. for the Reclassification of Existing Rate Regulated Services - Directory Assistance Services as Competitive Services, Docket No. TT97120889 (January 23, 2004). Under that Order and stipulation entered into by VNJ, the Ratepayer Advocate and Board Staff, the Board accepted the stipulated classification of DAS as a competitive service subject to continued monitoring by the Board, authorized a rate increase from \$0.20 per call to no more than \$0.50 per call, retained the 4 free calls per month allowance for residential customers, and set January 2006 as the date by which to begin a review of the appropriateness of continuing to consider DAS as competitive services as well as continuation of the rate cap, call allowance and any other DAS related issues that the Board deems appropriate. Likewise, the Order and stipulation required the submission of reports by VNJ to assist the Board in monitoring the service quality associated with VNJ's automated directory assistance system, as the Board determined that VNJ should not allow the service quality to slip below the previous standard despite VNJ's desire to implement a self-serve automated local directory assistance service. Thus, the Order and stipulation call for the continuation of the rate cap and call allowance until the earlier of either the completion of the review and the issuance of a Board Order that will govern any rate cap or call allowance or until July 1, 2006, unless the Board specifically orders otherwise.

On February 2, 2006, the Board, in <u>I/M/O the Board's Review of the Classification of Verizon New Jersey's Directory Assistance Services ("DAS") as Competitive and Associates Service Quality, BPU Docket No. TX06010057 and <u>I/M/O the Filing by Verizon New Jersey Inc. for the Reclassification of Existing Rate Regulated Services – Directory Assistance Services as Competitive Services, BPU Docket No. TT97120889 (February 2, 2006), indicated that it would set down this matter for the hearings envisioned in the 2004 Order. A Prehearing conference has occurred, and the Board adopted a Prehearing Order at its March 16, 2006 public agenda meeting.</u></u>

Based upon the schedule set forth in the Prehearing Order, however, the Board is not expected to complete its review of the DAS issues prior to the July 1, 2006 termination date set in the 2004 stipulation and Order. In order to ensure status quo pending a full review, to provide for a continuity of service, and as expressly authorized in the 2004 stipulation and Order, the Board HEREBY MODIFIES that prior Order and HEREBY ORDERS the continuation of the rate cap and call allowance until the earlier of either the completion of the review and the issuance of a Board Order that will govern any rate cap or call allowance or until December 31, 2006, unless the Board specifically orders otherwise.

DATED: 3/23/06

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITIES BY:

JEANNE M. FOX

FREDERICK F. BUTLER

COMMISSIONER

JOSEPH L. FIORDALISO

COMMISSIONER

CONNIE O. HUGHES COMMISSIONER

CHRISTINE V. BATOR COMMISSIONER

ATTEST:

KRISTI IZZO SECRETARY I HEREBY CERTIFY that the within document is a true copy of the original in the files of the Board of Public

Utilities

SERVICE LIST

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